

Proclamation 6520 of December 23, 1992

National Good Teen Day, 1993

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

The passage between childhood and adulthood constitutes one of the most eventful stages of our life's journey. The teen years are as challenging as they are exciting, and at a time when young Americans are facing more serious pressures than ever before—from substance abuse and violence to sexual promiscuity and dropping out of school—it is fitting that we set aside this day to reaffirm the unique, God-given potential of every teenager.

Today millions of American teenagers are setting examples for others by demonstrating love and respect for their parents, by meeting their responsibilities at home and in school, by participating in their places of worship, and by showing consideration and concern for their classmates and neighbors. They are also enjoying the rewards of voluntary service to others, thereby contributing to our communities and Nation as Points of Light. These teens are making the most of their talents and opportunities and, through their determination and hard work, are building the foundation for a bright future.

It is vital that we recognize and reinforce good behavior among teens and instill in every child a positive sense of responsibility, self-control, and self-worth. The pursuit of freedom and independence is characteristic of adolescence. Yet, while most adolescents demand increasing autonomy, they also continue to need and seek their parents' reassurance, guidance, and support. For teenagers who are struggling to cope with the many physical and emotional changes of adolescence, as well as the external pressures that weigh so heavily on young people today, such encouragement and guidance are essential. We must provide our teens with opportunity and hope, with firm yet loving moral guidance and discipline, and—most important—with clear, consistent examples of personal responsibility and virtue.

No child is destined to become a "bad teen." Through loving, responsible parenting and through the support of schools, churches, and communities that set high standards of character and conduct for people of all ages, we can help every young American to recognize and attain his or her fullest potential. On this occasion, let us resolve to do exactly that.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 409, has designated January 16, 1993, as "National Good Teen Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim January 16, 1993, as National Good Teen Day. I invite all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities in honor of America's teenaged citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and

ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6521 of January 4, 1993

National Sanctity of Human Life Day, 1993

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

Americans have demonstrated their commitment to the belief "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." This tradition of generosity and reverence for human life stands in marked contrast with the prevalence of abortion in America today—some 1.5 million children lost each year; more than 4,000 each day. This is shocking evidence of just how far we have strayed from our Nation's most cherished values and beliefs. Thus we pause on this National Sanctity of Human Life Day to call attention to the tragedy of abortion and to recognize the many individuals who are working to restore respect for human life in our Nation.

Advances in science and technology have offered us tremendous new insight on life in the womb: parents can now hear their unborn child's heartbeat as early as 8 weeks of age; physicians can monitor the baby's development using high-resolution sonography; and they may even diagnose and treat abnormalities before birth. How terribly ironic it is that, at one hospital or clinic, an unborn child may be carefully treated as a patient, while at another facility—perhaps just a few blocks away—another innocent child may become a victim of abortion.

Recognizing the tragedy of abortion and the feelings of desperation that lead some women to make such a painful, devastating choice, concerned individuals throughout the United States are working to help women choose life for their unborn children. On this occasion we recognize the many generous Americans who—with nothing to gain for themselves—reach out to women in need through crisis pregnancy centers, residential facilities, mentoring programs, and a host of other support services. We also recognize the many social services professionals, attorneys, and counselors who assist in promoting the adoption option, and we salute each of the courageous women who make this unselfish choice for their children. Such works of generosity and compassion are saving lives and, yes, slowly but surely turning hearts—one woman, one couple, one community at a time.

The struggle to overcome abortion in the United States—to educate individuals about life in the womb, to restore reverence for the miracle of creation, and to expand alternatives for women in need—is far from ended. While the struggle may be a long and difficult one, many Americans know that it is a cause from which we cannot retreat. And because it is a cause that appeals directly to the conscience of the Nation—a Nation that has, time and again, demonstrated its capacity to rediscover its highest ideals, ideals rooted in our belief in the God-